

Mental Health Nurse

Why did you choose psychiatric/mental health nursing?

I chose mental health nursing because I enjoy the psychiatric field and profession. The days are never “the same”.

Please briefly describe what you do in your role.

As a mental health nurse, I have 1:1 counseling with the patients, assessments/ admissions/ discharges, pass medications, participate in team conferences with the patient and psychiatrist.

Please describe your role in the health care team in the region/organization/ community where you practice psychiatric/mental health nursing.

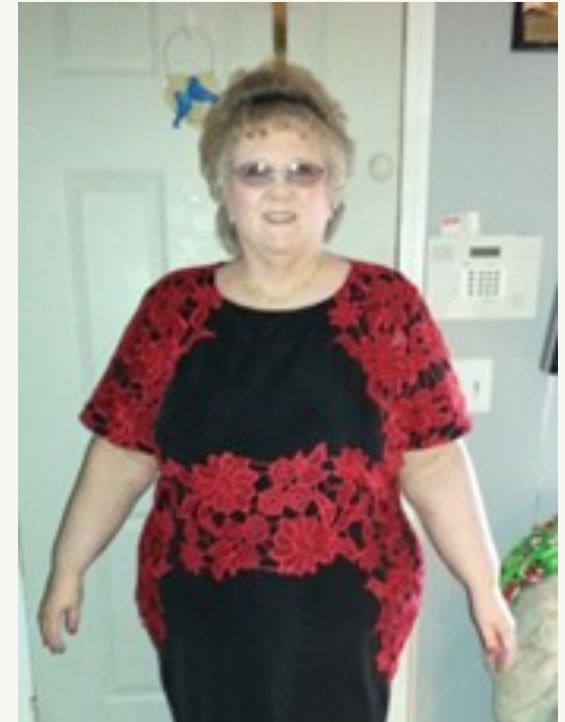
Our unit is available to the community for direct mental health nursing care in an inpatient hospital setting.

What do you consider to be the most challenging and most rewarding parts of psychiatric/mental health nursing?

The most challenging part of mental health nursing is facing the revolving door. Some patients immediately return to the unit which makes me feel that I am not helping the patients. The most rewarding part is seeing the patients functioning on the outside-in society.

What advice do you have for nursing graduates who are considering psychiatric/mental health nursing as a career?

I would advise the new grads to be “thick-skinned” and don’t take what patients say “personally”. Some patients will call you every name in the book. You should have a good sense of humor. Some patients appreciate nurses with a funny side to help them through the day.



Deborah Murphy, RN